



## The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

### NEWSLETTER 116 – March 2016

**Society meetings** are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Thursday** of the month, in the Royal Society Room behind the State Library off Kintore Avenue, Adelaide from 7.45 pm. Supper afterwards, visitors welcome. **Postal address** P.O. Box 2183, Kent Town S.A. 5071. **Web page** [sanumismatics.org.au](http://sanumismatics.org.au) **(Please visit the web page to see selected numismatic articles.)**  
Secretary; Barrie Newman, phone (08) 8362 1167 or email [adelaidemint@bigpond.com](mailto:adelaidemint@bigpond.com)

**Newsletter compiled** by Mick Vort-Ronald, primarily from minutes of Society meetings recorded by the Secretary. Contact details for Mick are; phone (08) 8522 4490, P.O. Box 653 Willaston S.A. 5118, email [vortronald@yp-connect.net](mailto:vortronald@yp-connect.net) Mobile as below.

For daytime **information** phone or see Grant Morton at I.S. Wright coin shop, Shop 23 Adelaide Arcade (between Rundle Mall – Grenfell St.) Adelaide, Phone (08) 8223 7603. **After hours** enquiries, Mick Vort-Ronald, (as above) or on mobile at **0417 212 906** on meeting nights for messages etc. Please do not send text, SMS or leave messages on Mick's phones.

Annual membership **subscriptions** are now \$30 for members in Australia and overseas. They can also be paid by **EFT** to 015 590 4981 20308 (ANZ) stating surname and/or postcode. If paying by EFT please advise Mick when doing so. See NSSA website.

Members attending meetings **speaking** on various topics are encouraged to provide the secretary with brief **details** of the subjects and examples produced in **writing** on the night or sent by email to the secretary to allow accurate recording in the Society minutes. This will make his task much easier and ensure that correct information is later used in this newsletter for the information of other members and clubs.

**Newsletters** are now being sent via **email** to members who have the capacity to receive them. In this way you get your newsletter quicker and better than the printed version, **AND IN COLOUR**. Please advise Barrie of your email address for future issues. This is more efficient and saves the society money. For those who do not have access to the Internet, or still want **hard copy** in black and white, some copies will still be produced and posted if requested. As a result of sending our emailed newsletters to other clubs in Australia and New Zealand, we are now receiving their emailed newsletters and these are also being forwarded on to our financial members.

### ***FORWARD DIARY***

2016 meeting dates, Thursdays, 7.30 pm. Royal Society room behind the State Library;

21 April, 19 May, 16 June, 21 July, 18 August Bernie B address, 15 September, 20 October, 17 November, 15 December. Mark the dates on your calendar or in your diary now, please.

## Meeting No. 915, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 21 January 2016

**Present:** seven members and one visitor, 12 apologies.

**Correspondence:** Letter from Don enquiring whether his letter of October 2015 enclosing Can\$20 note had been received and passed on to Powerhouse Museum. Peter L. to obtain details of Paul Donnelly's replacement at Powerhouse Museum.

**NAA Report:** AGM of the NAA is to be held in Sydney on 11 April. The Secretary will forward the NSSA's Report for the year direct to the Secretary of the NAA.

Stephen and David welcomed as new members of the Society..

*Sponsorship proposal – Clipper Ship City of Adelaide:* A proposal that the NSSA become a sponsor of the *City of Adelaide* to assist with the restoration programme of the clipper ship was presented by the Secretary by assisting with the costs of producing the dies for a commemorative medallion to be produced and sold by the Clipper Ship 'City of Adelaide' Ltd. As the numbers of members present at this meeting were very low it was decided to put this proposal to a vote at the next meeting of the Society.

*Art Gallery of South Australia:* The AGSA is showing some unusual exhibits not normally shown, such as a rug valued at \$4mil and its proof-like specimens of the 1930 and 1929 Aust. pennies, in February, and that there would be an article in The Advertiser on these items in the near future.



Peter L. showed a) a **Heaton**, Birmingham **brass plate** from a safe door showing a British coat-of-arms and the words "Dieu et mon Droit". Heaton also produced pre-decimal coins using the mintmark "H"; b) Public Libraries Museum and Art Gallery of South Australia valuation ticket, for a 1 pfennig coin dated 1696. The ticket is signed by Deakin (AGSA 1931-1940).

Paul J. showed a set of 12 **Nepal** copper coins from the reign of King Tribhuvan 1906 – 1955AD. King Tribhuvan died in 1955 in Zürich, Switzerland, under mysterious circumstances. He was aged 48. He was succeeded by his eldest legitimate son Mahendra.

Tribhuvan ascended the throne in 1911, at the age of five. The Queen Mother was appointed the regent until King Tribhuvan came of age. In a double ceremony, he married first at the Royal Palace, Kathmandu, March 1919, H.M. Queen Kanti. The same day he also married her sister, H.M. Queen Ishwari. Both were full sisters. He also had junior wives.

King Tribhuvan had three sons and thirteen daughters and during his reign he fled to India and came into conflict with the powerful Rana Family. What is of interest is the packaging (glued on card in a soft plastic pocket - Philatelic House, Jhochhen) and the poor state of the coins compared to those of RAM or the Perth Mint. It would appear to be just a tourist souvenir.

David M. showed 3 **US one dollar coins**- a) gold 1852 (13mm), b) silver 1896 uniface (52mm .900 fine silver, 412.5 grains – Corhan Mfg Co, Silversmiths), c) 1881 silver Morgan dollar (.900fine, 38mm).

A member showed three **radio station childrens' clubs badges** - a) Kipling Boys Club 5DN light blue enamel badge with safety pin on back (Schlank, Adelaide), b) Kipling Boys Club 5DN dark blue enamel stick pin (SS&Co Ltd Adelaide) [Silas Schlank, Adelaide], c) Early Birds Nicky & Tuppy 3AW badge – (the 3AW in a shield in red, white and blue enamel with a bird on top).



Mick showed a large show-piece display item highlighting 20 coins all dated 1994 produced by the **Perth Mint** for display at an ANDA Fair, showing 8 enlarged versions of the gold .9999 nuggets (from 1Kg to fractions of ozs), featuring the red kangaroo; 4 enlarged versions of the .999 silver (from 1Kg to 1oz) featuring the Australian kookaburra; and 8 enlarged versions of the .9995 platinum series (from 1Kg down) featuring the Australian koala. All probably have been cast in aluminium. (It was auctioned by Nobles in April fetching a hammer price of \$260).

### **Meeting No. 916, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 18 February 2016**

**Present:** 15 members, 7 apologies..

**Business Arising from Minutes Sponsorship proposal “City of Adelaide”:** General discussion voiced some concerns about the Society’s funds being used for this project. Three members offered to privately pay for the dies and story-cards and this was accepted with thanks.

**Correspondence:** Flyer for Mandurah 2016 Stamp Coin Banknote and Postcard Fair 3-5 November 2016 and Application Form to exhibit numismatic items. Letter from Charles in **Canada** enclosing Can\$20 note for passing on to Powerhouse Museum. Unfortunately the Museum was no longer interested in obtaining additional Canadian notes and it was unlikely that any other museum would accept these for their collections. It was agreed that the Secretary write to both Canadian members asking for permission to auction these notes at one of our regular monthly meetings to raise funds for the Society.

**Other Business:** Mick advised that some local Post Offices ran out of **30 cents stamps** for making up new \$1 postage from 70c. Sets of six 30c stamps were locally produced until official supplies arrived. These sets of 6 stamps, originally costing \$1.80, have been recently offered on ebay for \$1500.

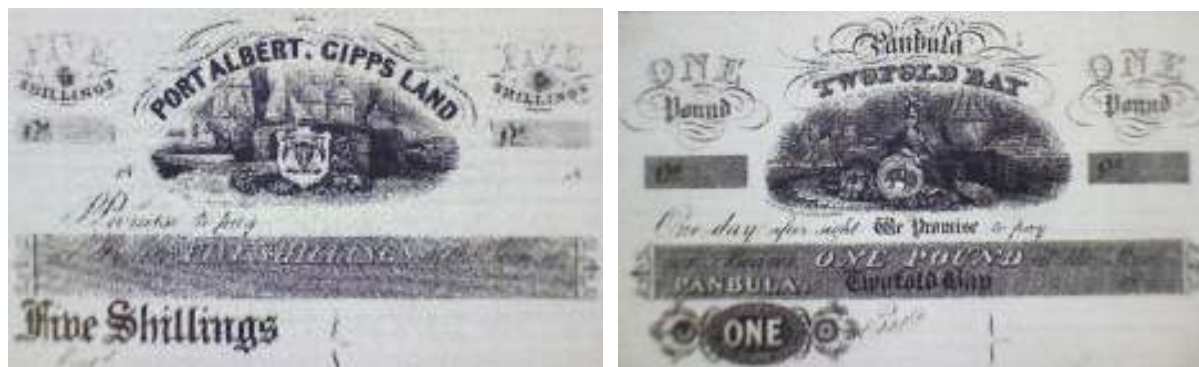


Paul S. showed a) bronze medallion (45mm, milled edge, Halliday) commemorating the arrival of the **Chinese junk, Keying**, in England on 27 March 1848 after leaving Hong Kong on 6 December 1846 (perhaps origin of phrase *Slow boat to China?*) obv. features image of Junk with wording on surround “CHINESE JUNK KEYING Captain Kellett” and some details of the ship “Extreme breadth 33 feet, burden 750 tons, depth of hold 16 feet”, rev. wording “This remarkable vessel is a junk of the largest class and is the first ship constructed by the Chinese which has reached Europe or even rounded the Cape of Good Hope. This junk was purchased August 1846 at Canton by a few enterprising Englishmen. She sailed from Hong Kong 6<sup>th</sup> December 1846, rounded the Cape 31<sup>st</sup> March 1847 arrived in England 27 March 1848”; b) bronze gilt Agricultural Society prize medallion (50mm, E Altmann) originally struck for The **Northern Agricultural Society S. A., Auburn** and overstruck with “The **Yorke’s Peninsula AH&P Society**” obv. shows the two societies superimposed wording on surround and, within laurel wreath the words “Awarded to”, rev. features a horse, cow, sheep and a plough.

Peter L. gave a tribute to **Dr Willam J (Bill) Myra**, as follows:

Bill Mira passed away on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month. He was a long-time Member of the ANS, and a prolific writer on Australian numismatics and a good friend to all that knew him. Bill was born and spent his youth in Mudgee, that town’s other numismatic contemporaries were his good friend Les Carlisle and a less well known in society circles, numismatic author Richard L. Smith. It is amazing to think that such a modest sized rural town of Mudgee could produce so many eminent numismatists. Bill was the eldest of the trio. I had the pleasure of meeting Bill over the years, in his home town of Sydney and at a NSSA-NAV conference in Bendigo and he was always friendly and helpful. We corresponded about the famous Kilwa and Dutch coin find on Marchinbar Island by his late numismatic friend Morrie Eisenberg. Bill wrote these coins up in the Australian Coin Review, which are now in the Powerhouse Museum. This article was a catalyst for a group of archaeologists and me to visit the remote and uninhabited island off the coast of Arnhem Land in search of similar coins in 2013. Bill authored (Dr W.J.D Mira): James Cook his coins & medals (c 1969), A classification of the New South Wales Dumps (1977), The Holey Dollars of New South Wales their fate (1979), Coinage and currency in New South Wales 1788-1829 and an index of References in The Sydney Gazette 1803-1811, (1981), From riverboat to iron horse – numismatic aspects of Australian riverboat era (1990) Australian ballot box key tags & electoral seals (1989), The N.S.W. Commissariat and its note issues 1788-1826 (1990) and The New South Wales Dumps (1990). He jointly compiled The Holey Dollars of New South Wales, a pictorial record of known surviving specimens, with W.J. [Jim] Noble (1988). With R.J. Byatt, L.J. Carlisle, The Amor centenary 1988-1988 (1988). He also wrote articles for the ANS journal, the Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia, and the Australian Coin Review. Bill was a close friend of Ron Byatt who was a long-time director of Amor. This good relationship was very fruitful as Bill was able to examine daybooks, dies and chat over the previously undocumented happenings. Bill was a long-time member of the Metropolitan Coin Club and many of his writings were published by them. He, along with many other members of the club, felt strongly about the direction that the organization was heading

and along with others resigned. Over the years Bill has dispersed his collection, mainly Holey Dollars and early Australian banknotes through Noble Numismatic auctions. Sometime after his first wife died he married Josephine (Fien) and by doing so became Jim Noble's step-father-in-law. We Adelaidians say that kind of thing only happens in Adelaide apparently it also happens in Sydney!



A minute's silence was then observed for Bill Myra. Peter also showed all of the books, mentioned above, that he had collected over the years. He also showed photocopies of early Australian banknotes: a) PANBULA TWOFOLD BAY one pound note; b) PORT ALBERT GIPPSLAND five shillings note.



Paul J. showed an Australian **2016 \$1 silver proof coin** (1oz .999ag RAM) rev. depicts a mother grey kangaroo and its offspring in its pouch and the background features a winter inland plain with gum trees and mountain ranges, obv. profile Elizabeth II.

Ray showed a boxed set of two coins issued by the **Expo 2010 Shanghai** which was opened by "Jackie Chan" 30 April 2010. The Expo was held for a period of 6 months, closing on 31 October 2010 during which time 73 million people (a record) from 192 countries attended (single day record was 1.03 million people). The motto of the Expo was "Better City – Better Life" and its mascot was "Haibao" meaning "Treasure of the Sea" : a) silver coin 40mm, b) gold coin 18mm – both with coloured images of mascot and the main entrance.



Kathryn showed a) a new release from the **Perth Mint** for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Decimal Currency 14 February 2016: a 2 coin set featuring large size 1 ounce **silver versions** of the old **1 cent and 2 cent pieces**; b) the male and female embossing dies (32mm) for Two Pence South Australian **Duty Stamp for impressing** on cheques. The female die has the name "W Coward" stamped on it (the name of the engraver, die sinker and medallist who made the dies in the late 1920s)

She also showed a cheque dated 1932 bearing the 32mm embossed revenue duty stamp of two pence indicating this tax was paid upon presentation of this cheque in South Australia.



Neil showed **RAM coin Issues in 2015**: a) 20cents cu-ni on a card Australia Remembers the Coo-ee March, b) 20cents cu-ni on a card 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Magna Carta, c) 50cents cu-ni on a card The Longest Reining Commonwealth Monarch, d) \$1 al-bronze on a card AFL Custodians of the Game, e) \$1 al-bronze on a card Moments that matter (NRL), f) \$1 al-bronze circulated 100 Years of ANZAC, g) \$1 al-bronze colour printed and frosted on a card Alphabet Series (“A” for ant) – 26 coins in series, h) \$2 al-bronze colour printed on PNC Remembrance Day (circulated).



A member showed a) **3SR FRIENDSHIP CLUB** badge, gilt bronze, light blue and dark blue enamel, 21mm. *Reverse*: brooch clasp and maker’s name, “P.J.KING”. The original radio station **3SR operated in Shepparton**, Victoria, and was sold when FM came into use around the 1980s, but the 3SR Friendship Club probably ceased well before that. The club was formed in the early 1940s by Dora Elizabeth Burchill SRN, RM, TC, OAM (1904–2003), who worked as announcer for 3SR from 1946 to 1952. It was a social club comprised mainly women, that focussed on organising social functions and fundraising stalls to raise money for hospitals in the area, such as the Wangaratta and the Benalla Hospitals. In 1950 the station held a Sunday 3SR Radio Hospital Appeal which the Friendship Club actively supported.

b) **ADELAIDE EXHIBITION** medalet showing a front view of the exhibition building. *Reverse*: Unofficial coat of arms/STOKES & MARTIN/MELBOURNE. Around a raised rim, AUSTRALIAN CELEBRATIONS/ 21 JUNE 1887. Silver, 22mm, holed for suspension. Reference: Carlisle 1887/3.

This appears to be one of the many die combinations that exist of these small medalets, most with holes and often a split ring for a ribbon. Stokes and Martin apparently had a minting press at the exhibition grounds and struck these medalets there for sale to visitors, thus advertising their business.



Mick showed two sets of The **Bank of Adelaide coin sets** in Perspex given to its staff for the bank's centenary in 1965. Two different box patterns were shown. About 2,000 sets containing all coins from the halfpenny to florin were made in Japan without the penny inserted, due to a penny shortage at the time and the possibility that the government would not allow an export permit for them to be included. Sets currently sell for around \$25-\$50 depending on condition. There was a penny shortage due to public hoarding prior to decimal currency. In 1964, 54.59 million pennies were minted in Perth (identified by the dot after Y in Penny) and 10 million in Melbourne. He read from a Treasury leaflet widely distributed at the time pleading for the public to release their excess pennies from captivity.

Australian pennies commenced in 1911, prior to which English pennies were used.

He told stories about the use of English Edward VII pennies for **two-up games** where a white cross was painted on the tails (reverse) side to enable quick determination of which side was up after the coins were thrown. Edward VII pennies were preferred because they were believed to be better balanced and were nick-named "baldies". He also described police raids on two-up games in Whyalla in the 1960s and showed English and Australian pennies with the white cross.

#### **Meeting No. 917, Royal Society Room, Adelaide, 17 March 2016**

**Present:** 11 members, 11 apologies.

*Visiting Speaker for August meeting:* Bernie, Fellow and a Past President of the ANS Queensland Branch has agreed to be our Guest Speaker for the August meeting.

*New AGSA Curator for Medals/Coins:* Rebecca Evans has been appointed the new curator of Australian & Decorative Arts at the Art Gallery of SA (includes the medal and coin collection at AGSA) The AGSA had a new World War I display which could be of interest to members.



Paul J. showed a **Boeotia Silver Stater Thebes** circa 395-338 BC, (20mm, 12.20 g). Apol-, magistrate Struck 363-338 BC. Boeotian shield Amphora; grape cluster on vine above, AP-OL across field. He commented, "The main problem that Boeotia had was that it was located between Sparta and Athens and they did not have any large suitable ports.

"The main city of Boeotia was Thebes, whose central position and military strength made it a suitable capital; the other major towns were Orchomenus, Plataea, and Thespieae. The Thebans goal was to absorb the other townships into a single state, just as Athens had annexed the Attic communities. The outlying cities successfully resisted this policy, and only allowed the formation of a loosely-based religious federation.

“During the Persian invasion of 480 BC, Thebes assisted the invaders as a result the Spartans took over the presidency of the Boeotian League, but in 457 BC the Spartans reinstated that city as a bulwark against Athenian aggression. The Athenians captured Boeotia after the Battle of Oenophyta, but the Boeotian’s rebelled and after a victory at the Battle of Coronea regained their independence.

Alexander the Great destroyed Thebes and consequently the political energy of the Boeotian’s. They never again pursued an independent policy and the people were unable to defend the frontiers. Boeotia was generally loyal to Macedon, but unfortunately supported its later kings against Rome. Boeotia slid into a very long continued state of decay, made worse by occasional barbarian incursions and the Ottoman invasion of Greece. The first step towards the Boeotia’s recovery was not until 1895.”



Neil showed **2016 RAM coin issues**: a) Uncirculated set of 6 coins – all which have the reverses with normal currency designs but the obverses commemorate 50 years since decimal currency was introduced – 5 cents features the Kangaroo of the penny, 10 cents features the ears of wheat of the threepence, 20 cents features the Coat-of-Arms of the sixpence, 50 cents features the ram of the shilling, \$1 features the Coat-of-Arms of the florin and the \$2 features the Queens crown, all coins will be released into circulation; b) Proof set of 6 coins as above; c) 6 coin Baby unc set, each with normal obverse /reverse designs, not released into circulation; d) Commemorative Unc set of 6 coins titled “In come the dollars in come the cents” with 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c coins in shape and composition of those produced in 1966 except with date 2016 and Ian Rank-Broadley design of the Queen, these coins will not be released into circulation; e) gold-plated round 50 cents coin with current 50c design, with privy mark WMF (World Money Fair Berlin).



Kathryn showed a **New Zealand 2004 10cents mule** and an Australian 2000 \$1- mule and commented as follows: “In the December 2015 journal of the RNSNZ (Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Inc) collector Jason Gray wrote an article about a new find. We all remember how New Zealand changed to smaller coins in 2006; well, collectors have been focussed on the 2004 5 cent as a low mintage collectable coin and some have collected a variety of the 10c that has an apparent double rim. Only recently has Jason (and other collectors) sought to look further into this double rim.....



“What they have found is that the double rim is due to a smaller obverse die – that of the dollar coin! We know back in the year 2000 the Royal Australian Mint made a mistake and paired the mob of roos dollar reverse with the 10 cent obverse creating the now famous Australian mule. For those new to this terminology a ‘mule’ is created when 2 dies are paired that weren’t meant to be used together. Now we have a New Zealand 2004 10 cent mule, which sees the dollar coin obverse die paired with the regular 10c reverse die. It’s been determined that the new mule is only found in circulation coins and these were struck by the Royal Mint. It is not found in mint sets which were struck by the Royal Australian Mint.”



Peter H. showed a) **SA Railways Institute Life Member** badge, 9ct gold in vitreous enamel, on rev. “**Ronald James Fitch** SA Railway’s Commissioner 1966 OBE, PhD. ME. FIEAust” and commented that Fitch (1910-2015) was commemorated by having a pavilion named after him at the Port Dock Station. He was also the oldest surviving WA Footballer (1921-1931); b) **SA Railways Ambulance** 9ct gold vitreous enamel 10 years clip, rev “**J W K Hasse 1971**”.



Paul S. showed 8 medallions issued by various World newspapers: a) copper medallion (29mm) **Court Gazette & Fashionable Design** issued in 1840 to commemorate the marriage of Victoria and Albert; b) white metal (17mm) Illustrated **News of the World 1858** issued to commemorate the marriage of the Princess Royal to Frederick Prince of Russia; c) silver (38mm) **Daily Mail** issued for the Ideal Home Exhibition London 1908; d) silver (25mm) Hallmarked 1926 – issue details unknown; e) white metal (32mm) **Daily Record** issued to commemorate the launching of the Queen Mary 26 September 1934 [The number 534 refers to the number by which the ship was known in the dockyard]; f) silver (32mm) **Daily Dispatch** issued 1935 to commemorate George V Jubilee Year; g) silver (44mm) Hallmarked 1931 **News of the World** - London to Brighton Relay Race; h) copper Daily Sketch Newspaper, cost halfpenny, issued for the lower classes.

Peter L. mentioned that he had visited the “**Spirit of ANZAC**” exhibition at the Royal Adelaide Showgrounds as part of the AWM Traveling Exhibition for the Centenary of World War I.



A member showed a “**Myer Hobby**” clasp /badge, rev. “Myers Adelaide”



Mick showed an image of Lot 4174 in the upcoming Noble Numismatics auction in April 2016, a paper-designed Johnston / Stone **\$20 test note** with the portraits of Kingsford Smith and Hargraves, **printed on polymer**, the first such note seen in the hands of the public. Being polymer, it does not have the usual watermark or metallic thread. The signatures have been crossed out and the note bears the serial numbers AJS 049619. The last paper \$20 note had the serial number ADK 999999, so this serial number is way past that. Johnston / Stone \$20 notes were issued from October 1983, followed by Johnston / Fraser notes in February 1985. This is the first time a paper banknote design has been seen printed on polymer, though it is known that \$1 and \$2 test notes on polymer were produced internally by the Note Printing Branch of the Reserve Bank of Australia, (as it was then called) as demonstration pieces for an international banknote printers meeting. The note is sealed in a PMG holder graded at 66, suggesting an overseas source, and is estimated to bring \$17,000 at auction. It realised a hammer price of \$12,000.



Richard showed a) 300BC silver tetradrachm (25mmx22mm) obv. **Alexander the Great**, rev. hors; b) 1696 GB silver **William III** crown (39mm); c) copper token **Stewart & Hennant** Queensland merchant drapers 1 penny, emu on one side, rev. on surround "Brisbane, Rockhampton Criterion"; d) copper token **Flavelle Bros** Opticians & Jewellers, 1 penny, emu and kangaroo on one side; e) 3 **Australian banknotes**: 1915 10/- Collins Allen, 1918 5 pound Cerutti Collins, 1933 5 pound Riddle Sheehan.

